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Fifty-eighth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 94 (b)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Morocco:* draft resolution

International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2004

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 12 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling further the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[2] as well as the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3]

Having considered decision 22/15 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on an international year of deserts and desertification,[4]

Deeply concerned by the exacerbation of desertification, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on poverty eradication,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/58/25), annex.

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Conscious of the need to raise public awareness and to protect the biological diversity of deserts as well as indigenous and local communities and the traditional knowledge of those affected by this phenomenon,

1. *Decides* to declare 2004 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification;

2. *Designates* the United Nations Environment Programme as focal point of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, in conjunction with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Development Programme;

3. *Invites* all countries to establish national committees or focal points and to celebrate the International Year by arranging appropriate activities;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant international organizations and developed countries in a position to do so to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries;

5. *Encourages* Member States to undertake special initiatives in observance of the International Year, with the goal of enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.